

HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL



Annual Report

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER


UPON THE

HEALTH AND SANITARY
CONDITION

OF THE

COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON

For the year 1943



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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE HUNTINGDONSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you the Annual Report on the health of the County of Huntingdonshire for the year 1943. As in the previous war years since 1940, the report is in the nature of a digest of health activities and, in its contents, is mainly statistical. Nevertheless, the year 1943 is remarkable for advances in public health administration which invite comment.

The publication of the Beveridge Report on "Social Insurance and Allied Services" aroused an interest in public health and National Insurance, so great as to make its proposals the subject of conversation in the home as well as the subject of debate in Parliament. It soon became clear that the arguments advanced and the data amassed would be used as a sound foundation upon which to build legislative reform in public health. A Parliamentary White Paper was expected to follow and, in fact, appeared in February, 1944. There is no doubt that a Parliamentary Bill setting forth the Government's proposals for a National Health Service will be submitted to Parliament in the near future. That a coalition Government during a European war should be obliged to introduce legislation for the reform of social services, such as education, and public health, is the measure of the social revolution which is taking place. No longer is prosperity regarded only in terms of volume of trade. The happiness and contentment of the individual are now considered, perhaps for the first time in our history, as fundamental in the planning of social reform. Happiness and contentment are bound up with health; indeed, it may be that they are dependent on health. Public health is a matter of concern to every individual in the State and it is proper that it should be organised by the State. While there are many proposals in the White Paper exciting controversy, its chief aims are incontrovertible. Local Authorities are now confronted with proposals which will radically alter public health administration. The prospect for Huntingdonshire is a

Health Service, well knit together, latent with great benefit to the people of the County, and affording to all the riches of specialist medical advice and treatment, as well as preserving the treasured relationship of the patient to the family doctor.

Other advances in public health administration are referred to briefly under their appropriate heads in the body of the report.

I desire to record my thanks to the Public Health Committee for their unfailing kindness and forbearance to me in face of my ignorance of the intricate ways of Local Government. I am grateful to the staff of the Public Health Department for their unstinted labour for, and their loyalty to, the ideals of the Public Health Service.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

N. H. HARRISON.

September, 1944.

STATISTICS

Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	233,985
Population (Census 1931)	...	...	...	...	...	56,206
Population (estimated mid-1943)	...	...	...	...	...	61,670

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR

BIRTHS

Live Births—		<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>Total</i>
Legitimate	... ..	475	469	944
Illegitimate	... ..	41	41	82
Total Births	... ..	516	510	1,026
Birth rate per 1,000 population	...	16.6	(c.p. 16.8 in 1942)	
Still Births	... ..	41		
Still birth rate per 1,000 total births	...	39.9	(c.p. 32.6 in 1942)	

DEATHS

Deaths from all causes ...	...	...	...	...	762
Death rate in—					
Urban Districts ...	...	...	...	...	11.9
Rural Districts ...	...	...	...	...	12.7
County of Huntingdon ...	...	...	...	...	12.4
England and Wales ...	...	...	...	...	12.1

Maternal Deaths—

From Puerperal Sepsis and Puerperal Pyrexia ...	Nil
From other causes ...	1

Infants' Deaths—

Death rate of infants under 1 year of age
per 1,000 births—

Legitimate ...	44.5
Illegitimate ...	60.9
Total death rate ...	45.8

The chief causes of death during the year were Heart Disease 198, Cancer 111, Intracranial lesions 85, Bronchitis 32, Pneumonia 34, Tuberculosis (pulmonary) 22.

The following table sets out the birth rates and death rates of the Urban and Rural Districts, and of England and Wales, for the past five years :—

	BIRTH RATE					DEATH RATE				
	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Urban Districts - -	15.3	15.6	14.6	16.9	16.3	12.9	13.1	11.4	10.1	11.9
Rural Districts - - -	14.2	13.9	13.2	16.9	16.9	13.7	14.8	12.9	12.4	12.7
County of Huntingdon	14.7	14.9	13.9	16.8	16.6	13.4	14.2	12.2	11.3	12.4
England and Wales -	15.0	14.2	14.2	15.8	16.5	12.1	14.3	12.9	11.6	12.1

TABLE SHOWING DEATHS FROM ALL CAUSES AND

CAUSE OF DEATH	CAUSE OF DEATH AT DIFFERENT PERIODS OF LIFE					
	Under 1 year	1 and under 5	5 and under 15	15 and under 45	45 and under 65	65 and upwards
1. Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Cerebro-Spinal Fever	—	—	—	—	1	—
3. Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Whooping Cough	2	—	—	—	—	—
5. Diphtheria	1	—	—	1	—	—
6. Tuberculosis of Resp. System	—	—	—	12	8	2
7. Other forms of Tuberculosis	—	3	1	5	2	—
8. Syphilitic Diseases	—	—	—	1	2	—
9. Influenza	2	—	1	1	6	17
10. Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—
11. Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Acute Infantile Encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Cancer of buc. cav. and Oesoph. (M) Uterus (F)	—	—	—	—	2	6
14. Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	—	—	—	—	2	25
15. Cancer of Breast	—	—	—	—	4	3
16. Cancer of all other Sites	—	—	—	3	19	47
17. Diabetes	—	—	—	—	—	4
18. Intra. cranial Vascular Lesions	—	—	—	2	14	69
19. Heart Disease	—	—	—	3	31	164
20. Other Diseases of Circulatory System	—	—	—	—	1	26
21. Bronchitis	3	—	—	2	5	22
22. Pneumonia	1	1	2	4	7	19
23. Other Respiratory Diseases	—	—	—	—	9	4
24. Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	—	—	—	2	4	1
25. Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	5	—	—	—	—	—
26. Appendicitis	—	—	—	—	1	—
27. Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—	1	9	10
28. Nephritis	—	—	—	2	3	6
29. Puerperal and Post. Abortive Sepsis	—	—	—	—	—	—
30. Other Maternal Causes	—	—	—	1	—	—
31. Premature Birth	16	—	—	—	—	—
32. Con. Mal. Birth Injuries, Infant. Diseases	13	—	—	1	1	—
33. Suicide	—	—	—	3	3	1
34. Road Traffic Accidents	—	1	3	1	—	1
35. Other Violent Causes	4	1	2	3	2	6
36. All Other Causes	—	3	2	7	6	65
TOTALS : ALL CAUSES	47	9	11	55	142	498

IN DISTRICTS IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON, 1943.

TOTALS	URBAN DISTRICTS						RURAL DISTRICTS			
	Huntingdon U.D.	Godmanchester U.D.	St. Ives U.D.	St. Neots U.D.	Ramsey U.D.	Old Fletton R.D.	Huntingdon R.D.	St. Ives R.D.	St. Neots R.D.	Norman Cross R.D.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
22	1	1	3	2	1	3	2	3	3	3
11	—	—	1	—	—	4	—	2	1	3
3	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
27	3	2	3	6	—	3	2	1	5	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
8	1	—	—	—	2	2	1	—	1	1
27	2	—	2	2	2	2	4	4	5	4
7	—	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	1
69	5	1	4	5	6	4	7	21	7	9
4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
85	11	5	2	8	4	9	11	18	6	11
198	15	4	9	9	20	29	20	47	24	21
27	2	1	2	—	1	1	1	15	2	2
32	3	2	—	2	1	6	2	9	4	3
34	—	3	3	7	—	3	4	5	5	4
13	1	—	—	6	—	2	1	1	2	—
7	1	1	—	1	—	2	—	1	—	1
5	2	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	1	—
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
20	2	1	1	4	1	1	2	3	3	2
11	3	—	1	1	1	—	1	—	3	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
16	1	1	1	4	1	2	2	1	1	2
15	1	1	1	1	2	3	2	—	2	2
7	—	1	—	1	3	—	1	—	1	—
6	—	—	—	—	1	—	2	2	—	1
18	1	2	—	1	1	3	3	3	3	1
83	8	1	3	8	7	8	10	15	11	12
762	68	27	39	72	55	88	80	153	94	86

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified shows a marked increase on the preceding year. There were 1,173 cases notified in the year 1943, compared with 522 for 1942. The increase is mainly due to the remarkable rise in the figures recorded for Measles, 870 in 1943, compared with 62 in 1942. Whooping Cough shows a decline from 183 to 140. An interesting feature noticed in the distribution of this disease is that in some districts where the figures were low in 1942 they are high in 1943, and *vice versa*. For example, at St. Ives there were 3 cases in 1942 and 26 cases in 1943, and at Fletton there were 59 cases in 1942 and only 4 in 1943.

Diphtheria Immunisation

Diphtheria immunisation of children has been continued and the total number of cases recorded was :—

0— 5 years	...	620
5—15 years	...	603

Tuberculosis

The Ministry of Health Memo. 266/T was issued on the 23rd April, 1943, and was brought into force in this County on the 1st June. This important memorandum linked with the Report by the Standing Advisory Committee on Tuberculosis Mass Radiology constitutes a signal change in the attitude of the Government to tuberculosis. The apparent altruism of the memorandum is somewhat vitiated by a statement in the memorandum “that the need for special action as a war-time measure in regard to tuberculosis is urgent and should not await the working out of any general plans of a wider character,” and by the exclusion from benefit of cases of chronic tuberculosis and cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis. Notwithstanding these omissions, medical opinion—that tuberculosis is not the hopeless disease it was once thought to be—has been recognised and acted upon by the Central Government, and Local Authorities are now able to provide financial allowances to certain persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis in order that treatment may be obtained without undue financial strain on the patient while undergoing such treatment. The irony of the position lies in the circumstance that the well-observed fact of the tuberculous patient’s optimism concerning himself is now being shared by his one-time pessimistic sympathiser.

On December 31st, 1943, 20 patients were receiving allowances.

During the year a reorganisation of the Tuberculosis Service in this County was completed. The County Medical Officer of this County is also Tuberculosis Officer. It was felt that the services of

a Consultant Chest Specialist were needed to supplement the work of the Tuberculosis Officer and thus to provide specialist advice. By arrangement with Papworth Village Settlement, Dr. Wollaston, a member of the staff of the Settlement, attends at Huntingdon Chest Clinic twice a month. It is hoped that, when the Chest Clinic now being erected at Fletton is ready for occupation, Dr. Wollaston will also attend at Fletton. If necessary, Chest Clinics will be opened in other parts of the County.

Dr. E. F. Bebbington, Assistant County Medical Officer, was deputed to act as Assistant Tuberculosis Officer, in addition to her work in connection with Maternity and Child Welfare and School Inspection and Treatment. She has borne the brunt of the work entailed in the process of reorganisation.

A Tuberculosis Health Visitor was appointed in December. She will assist at the Clinics, visit patients and contacts in their homes and report on the health circumstances and social conditions of the homes.

The number of domiciliary visits paid by the Assistant Tuberculosis Officer for the period June to December was 231. The number of patients receiving treatment in Sanatoria during 1943 was 77, representing 12,069 patient days. The number of cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis receiving treatment in Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, Northampton, was 16, representing 3,142 patient days. The number of patients receiving tuberculosis allowances during the period July to December, 1943, was 32.

An increasing number of tuberculosis cases are now being discharged from the Services. These cases are transferred to the care of the responsible Local Authorities of the area in which the patients live. During 1943, 5 cases came under the care of the Public Health Authority of Huntingdonshire. The total number of cases on the register at the end of the year was 250, compared with 236 at the end of 1942.

To fulfil our obligations under the Tuberculosis Scheme it is clear that there is sufficient work for a whole-time Assistant Tuberculosis Officer.

The number of deaths from tuberculosis (all forms) in the County for 1943 was 33, that for Urban Districts being 16, and for Rural Districts 17.

The number of cases of pulmonary tuberculosis notified during 1943 was 41, as compared with 49 in 1942. 12 Cases of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified, as against 20 in 1942. In addition, 17 pulmonary and 3 non-pulmonary cases came to notice, otherwise than by formal notification (e.g. from death returns, etc.).

The following table shows the extent of residential treatment during 1943 :—

		In Institutions on January 1st, 1943	Admitted during the year	Discharged during the year	Died in Institutions	In Institutions on December 31st, 1943
No. of Patients	Adults : M	25	18	19	5	19
	F	13	23	23	2	11
	Children : M	2	3	1	—	4
	F	7	2	7	—	2
	Total ...	47	46	50	4	36

Venereal Diseases

A very limited degree of compulsion in the examination for, and in the treatment of, the Venereal Diseases was introduced by legislation in the form of a regulation issued by the Ministry of Health and now well known as Regulation 33B. At least two notifications from two separate informers are required, before the person alleged to have conveyed infection can be compelled to undergo examination, and, if necessary, treatment. Procedure is wrapped in secrecy and everyone concerned seems to be safeguarded except the alleged offender. It remains to be seen what effect this Regulation will have on the incidence of Venereal Diseases. In conjunction with Regulation 33B the Ministry of Health Circular 2226 imposes on Local Authorities the duty of providing Treatment Centres, either by establishing Venereal Diseases Clinics at suitable places, or by organising a General Practitioner Service. It was found that Huntingdonshire would be served most conveniently by a General

Practitioner Service. Four practitioners in the County have undergone special Refresher Courses in the treatment of Venereal Diseases and are now recognised by the Ministry of Health. Specialist service is obtained at Cambridge and Peterborough.

A County Almoner for Venereal Diseases was appointed in November, 1943. Her duties are varied and include the investigation of the social and economic circumstances of sufferers from Venereal Diseases, rendering to them such help as normally falls within the scope of the trained Venereal Diseases Almoner.

Venereal Diseases Clinics are held at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, on Tuesdays at 3 p.m., and on Thursdays at 7 p.m., and at 28, Fitzwilliam Street, Peterborough, on Tuesdays and Fridays (Men) at 6 to 8 p.m., and Tuesdays and Fridays (Women) at 3.30 to 6 p.m.

Abstract relating to Huntingdonshire patients treated at the Venereal Diseases Treatment Centres

	Cambridge	Peterborough
A.—Number of persons dealt with for the first time and found to be suffering from—		
Syphilis 	6	2
Soft Chancre 	—	—
Gonorrhœa 	2	22
Conditions other than Venereal	16	35
Total 	24	59
B.—Attendances of all patients ...	222	1700

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN HUNTINGDON COUNTY
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1943.

District	Smallpox	Cerebro-Spinal Fever	Whooping Cough	Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Typhoid and Paratyphoid	Puerperal Pyrexia	Encephalitis Lethargica	Ophthalmia Neonatorum	Pneumonia	Chicken Pox	Measles	Acute Poliomyelitis	Total
URBAN.															12
Godmanchester ...	—	—	10	—	3	3	—	—	—	—	7	—	61	—	84
Huntingdon ...	—	—	1	8	4	19	—	4	—	—	15	—	127	—	178
Old Fletton ...	—	—	4	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	4	—	172	—	193
Ramsey ...	—	—	3	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	4	—	139	—	152
St. Neots...	—	—	3	—	—	13	—	—	—	—	2	—	40	—	58
St. Ives ...	—	—	26	—	1	3	—	2	—	—	1	—	66	—	99
RURAL.															
Huntingdon ...	—	—	6	1	8	14	—	3	—	—	9	—	20	—	61
Norman Cross ...	—	—	1	2	4	13	—	—	—	—	14	—	46	—	80
St. Ives ...	—	—	52	1	2	6	—	3	—	—	13	—	114	—	191
St. Neots...	—	—	34	1	2	7	—	7	—	—	4	—	22	—	77
	—	—	140	13	24	97	—	19	—	—	73	—	807	—	1173

PUBLIC HEALTH (TUBERCULOSIS) REGULATIONS, 1930.

Part I.—Summary of Notifications during the period 1st Jan., 1943, to the 31st Dec., 1943, in the area of the County of Huntingdon.

		Formal Notifications											
		Number of Primary Notifications of New Cases of Tuberculosis											
AGE PERIODS		0 to 1	1 to 5	5 to 10	10 to 15	15 to 20	20 to 25	25 to 35	35 to 45	45 to 55	55 to 65	65 and upwards	Total
Pulmonary—													
Males	—	—	—	—	1	2	6	3	6	1	2	21
Females	—	1	—	—	4	2	9	2	—	2	—	20
Non-Pulmonary—													
Males	—	2	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	5
Females	—	1	3	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	—	7

Part II.—Supplemental Return.

New cases of Tuberculosis coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health during the above mentioned period, otherwise than by formal notification.

Pulmonary—													
Males ...	...	—	1	—	—	2	—	1	—	4	2	1	11
Females ...	...	—	1	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	1	—	6
Non-Pulmonary—													
Males ...	...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2
Females ...	...	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

Return showing the work of the Dispensaries during the year 1943.

Diagnosis	Pulmonary				Non-Pulmonary				Total				Grand Total	
	Adults		Children		Adults		Children		Adults		Children			
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F		
A.—(1) Number of definite cases on Register at beginning of year	72	60	6	6	22	20	22	28	94	80	28	34	236	
(2) Transfers from other areas...	3	5	—	—	1	—	1	—	4	5	1	—	10	
(3) Lost sight of cases returned during the year	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	
B.—Number of new cases diagnosed during the year—														
(1) Class T.B. minus	20	17	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	17	—	—	37	
(2) Class T.B. plus	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2	—	—	4	
(3) Non-Pulmonary	—	—	—	—	2	2	3	7	2	2	3	7	14	
C.—Number of cases in A and B written off the Dispensary Register during the year—														
(1) Recovered	1	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	3	—	2	6	
(2) Dead (all causes)	13	3	—	1	3	2	—	—	16	5	—	1	22	
(3) Removed to other areas	5	9	—	—	—	—	1	—	5	9	1	—	15	
(4) For other reasons	5	1	1	—	—	1	1	—	5	2	2	—	9	
D.—Number of definite cases of Tuberculosis on Register at the end of the year	74	68	5	5	22	19	24	33	96	87	29	38	250	

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE

The Maternity and Child Welfare services were fully maintained throughout the year. The year under review was notable by reason of the publication of the Rushcliffe Report on the salaries of nurses of nearly all categories. The recommendations concerning midwives were issued in a separate report known as the "Report of Midwives' Salaries Committee" and was adopted by the County Council and the Nursing Associations. The salaries and conditions of service of midwives have been adjusted to conform with the recommendations made in the Report. The Rushcliffe Report is an advance in the recognition of the high status the nursing profession has achieved and is welcomed particularly by those who are familiar with the very responsible and onerous duties falling to the lot of those engaged in nursing. District Midwives, District Nurses, and Hospital Midwives are now regarded as highly skilled professional workers deserving appropriate remuneration.

Maternity and Midwifery Services

Paxton Park Emergency Maternity Hospital has been used for certain County cases requiring institutional care. The number of County cases admitted to this Hospital during 1943 was 246. The County Obstetric and Gynæcological Consultant Surgeon supervises the work at this Hospital. In addition, he attends at a Clinic held at the County Hospital, Huntingdon, every Saturday morning and sees cases referred to him. The number of County cases seen by him at the clinic was 252. District Midwifery is in charge of the Nursing Associations, of which there are 19 in number employing 26 midwives.

The work done by the District Nurses is as follows :—

Midwifery cases	129
Maternity cases	397
Number of General Nursing visits	30,129
Number of casual visits	2,764
Ante-natal visits	5,456

Dental treatment is available for expectant and nursing mothers. During the year 126 dentures were supplied, the whole or part cost being recovered from the patient according to her means.

Infant Welfare Services

There are 14 Infant Welfare Centres in the County. New Centres are to be opened as circumstances permit.

The important work in connection with what is known as “mothercraft” needs careful consideration and constant supervision to make it a success. Specially trained personnel are required. There is a danger that the natural instincts of the mother may be smothered by the exuberance of well-meaning advisers. The application of academic knowledge gained at the Training School must be tempered with the understanding of the individual mother and child, and sympathy with her social background. For this work the County will look to the trained Health Visitor. At the close of the year there were 5 Health Visitors working under the supervision of the Superintendent Health Visitor. It is anticipated that the work undertaken by the District Nurses as Health Visitors will gradually be taken over by the trained Health Visitors.

The total numbers of children who attended for the first time at the Centres during the year were :—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	472
Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	238

The total numbers of subsequent attendances were :—

Under 1 year of age	...	...	...	...	3016
Between the ages of 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	2552

The District Nurses paid the following Home Visits :—

1st Visits to infants	...	...	...	...	793
Visits to infants between 14 days and 1 year	...	...	...	...	5214
Visits to children between 1 and 5 years	...	...	...	...	5592

Infant Life Protection

The number of foster children cared for during the year was 50.

ORTHOPAEDIC SERVICE

A team from Manfield Orthopædic Hospital, Northampton, consisting of an Orthopædic Surgeon and Sister, attend the Orthopædic Clinics at Huntingdon and Peterborough twice a month. The great majority of cases requiring hospital treatment are sent to the Manfield Orthopædic Hospital. The close follow-up of all cases will now be possible by the appointment in November of an Orthopædic Sister. The Orthopædic Sister will attend Clinics at Huntingdon and other Centres in the County and will visit those cases unable to attend the Clinics. Her work will be of great benefit to the Orthopædic Service.

The total number of cases admitted to Manfield Orthopædic Hospital was 39. The statistics for the Huntingdon Clinic are as follows :—

Number of Patients, January 1st, 1943	301
New Patients	142
Patients Transferred from Other Clinics	3
Total under treatment during 1943	446
Discharged Cured	22
Discharged Improved	29
Discharged, Lapsed or Refused Further Treatment	103
Left District	21
Transferred to a Clinic in another District ...	11
Died	2
Total Discharged	188
Number of Patients, December 31st, 1943 ...	258
Number of Attendances for Examination ...	830

The number of attendances of Huntingdonshire patients at the Peterborough Clinic was 442.

WELFARE OF THE BLIND

There were 115 blind persons on the register of the Huntingdonshire Society for the Blind on 31st December. There were also 24 persons on the observation list for treatment for the prevention of blindness. There are 28 evacuee blind persons in the County. The Secretary, who is also the Home Teacher, paid 975 visits for instructional and social purposes. Six persons are receiving pensions from the Royal Blind Pensions Society, one from the Gardeners' Fund for the Blind and one from the Clothworkers' Company.

MENTAL DEFICIENCY

The necessity of abridgment excludes from this report many items of interest on the subject of Mental Deficiency.

The presence of mental defectives in the community is a challenge to Public Health Authorities. The medical and social problems connected with Mental Deficiency and cognate mental conditions require at least an ascertainment of the number of persons affected before they can be solved. It is, therefore, of importance that the Public Health Authority in this County should be informed not only of the number of certified mental defectives, but also of the larger number of persons suffering from mental defects

not certifiable and amenable to treatment. This latter class includes cases of mal-adjustment, behaviour states, retardation, etc. Many of such cases treated in the early years of life would be saved from joining the ranks of those all-too-numerous persons who by reason of incompetence or lack of ambition, or weakness of personality, or other mental peculiarity become the backwash of society.

The Provisional National Council for Mental Health was formed during the year, incorporating Central Association for Mental Welfare, Child Guidance Council, National Council for Mental Hygiene and Mental Health Emergency Committee. The County Council make an annual grant to the Central Association for Mental Welfare and will, therefore, be represented on the Provisional National Council. The County Council will benefit by the activities of the Provisional National Council and it is anticipated that assistance will be forthcoming to us in time of need.

It is hoped that the Psychiatric Clinic set up at Huntingdon before the war will be resumed as soon as possible after the war.

14 Male and 15 female defectives, for whom the Huntingdonshire County Council is responsible, remained in Certified Institutions at the end of the year. There were also 1 male and 2 females on licence from Institutions.

2 Males and 8 females were under Guardianship and 25 males and 24 females were under Statutory Supervision.

GENERAL SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

Water Supply

There is still insufficiency of supply in certain parts of the County. In St. Ives Urban District additional works to increase the supply were completed during the year.

Drainage and Sewerage

The sewage disposal arrangements in many parts of the County are inadequate, and steps are being taken to ascertain the possibility of combining all the Parishes together in group or regional area schemes.

Housing

There is a general shortage of houses in the County. In some districts post-war Building Programmes have been completed.

